



NEWS RELEASE

Arizona House of Representatives

Representative Nancy Barto (R-15)

Representative Leo Biasiucci (R-5)

1700 West Washington • Phoenix, Arizona • 85007-2844

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Reps. Barto and Biasiucci Attend White House Summit on Transforming Mental Health Treatment

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – Representatives Nancy Barto (R-15) and Leo Biasiucci (R-5) recently traveled to Washington, D.C. to attend the White House Summit on Transforming Mental Health Treatment. The day-long meeting, held on December 19, brought together nearly 180 federal, state, local, community, and private-sector leaders to discuss reforming mental health treatment to combat violence, homelessness, and substance abuse.

Statement from Representative Barto: **“In light of the tragic mental illness-related shootings and homelessness as well as increased addiction-related deaths in our country, this Summit couldn’t be more timely. It was an honor to be invited to participate. The fact that the White House initiated the discussion is even more encouraging as their role is key. The participants agreed better outcomes must be the measure, not just increased resources with the same failing results - and more hospital beds, assisted outpatient treatment (AOT), and ending the Medicaid Institutions for Mental Diseases (IMD) exclusion were emphasized.**

“Thankfully, Arizona is an example of strong AOT laws and is making incremental progress on more appropriate treatment facilities for individuals with chronic serious mental illnesses, but there’s much more to do. I look forward to continuing to work with local and federal leaders to expand these efforts to better serve and protect the public.”

Statement from Representative Biasiucci: **“It was an honor to be invited to the White House Summit on Transforming Mental Health Treatment. With all the great information and data presented from people like Dr. Drew Pinsky, Dr. Ben Carson, and President Donald Trump, I am confident we will do great things next year to help the State of Arizona assist in tackling the challenges of mental health.”**



Pictured: Rep. Biasiucci (left), Mohave County Supervisor Hildy Angius (center), Rep. Barto (right).

Below please find information mentioned in the Summit along with full video coverage and a transcript of President Donald J. Trump's remarks.

- [C-SPAN Coverage of White House Mental Health Summit](#)
- [Remarks by President Trump at the White House Mental Health Summit](#)

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